IDW

31

COVER A

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

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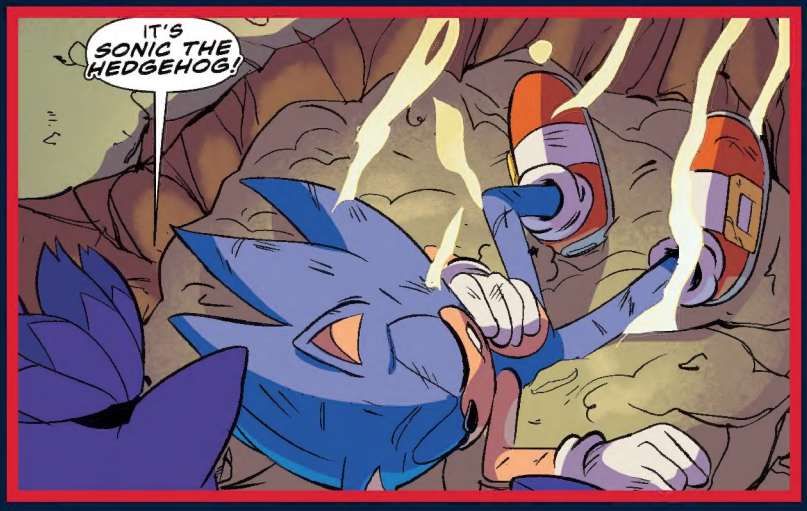
STORY SO FAR
SONIC! WE DID IT! THE METAL VIRUS IS GONE FROM THE WORLD!
G-G-GREAT! N-N-NOW T-T-TO D-D-DITCH TH-TH-THE W-W-WARP T-T-TOPAZ...!

SHA-KOOM

BUT... DR. STARLINE WAS RIGHT. THE WARP TOPAZ COULDN'T HANDLE ALL THAT POWER.
SONIC TRIED TO DITCH IT IN THE SUPER WARP PORTAL, BUT...

TAILS... PLEASE. WE JUST PREVENTED THE END OF THE WORLD AND SONIC MAY BE LOST TO US. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN TAKE.
ME TOO. BUT ZAVOK WAS JUST ONE OF THE DEADLY SIX. THE OTHER FIVE ARE STILL OUT THERE.

BREEP BREEP
SONIC IS M.I.A. I NEED TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT.


IT'S SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

AMY ROSE
Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration organizer.

JEWEL THE BEETLE
Crystal Curator.
Tangle's best friend.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.

WHISPER THE WOLF
Silent Sniper.
Variable wispon master.

DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Eggman Empire.

TEAM CHAOTIX
Ace detectives.
Chaotix detective agency.

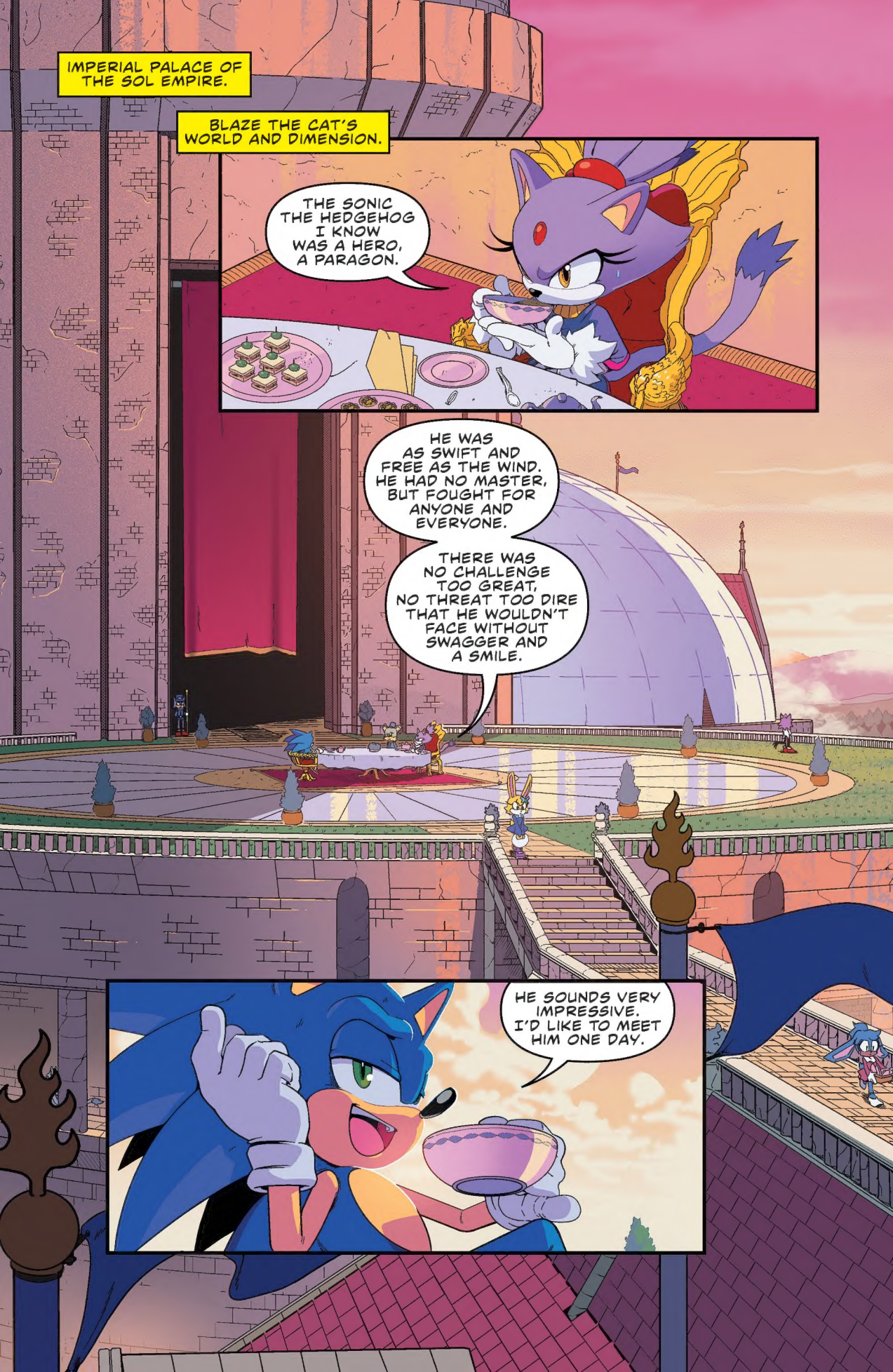
CREAM THE RABBIT
Gentle Heroine.
Restoration ally.

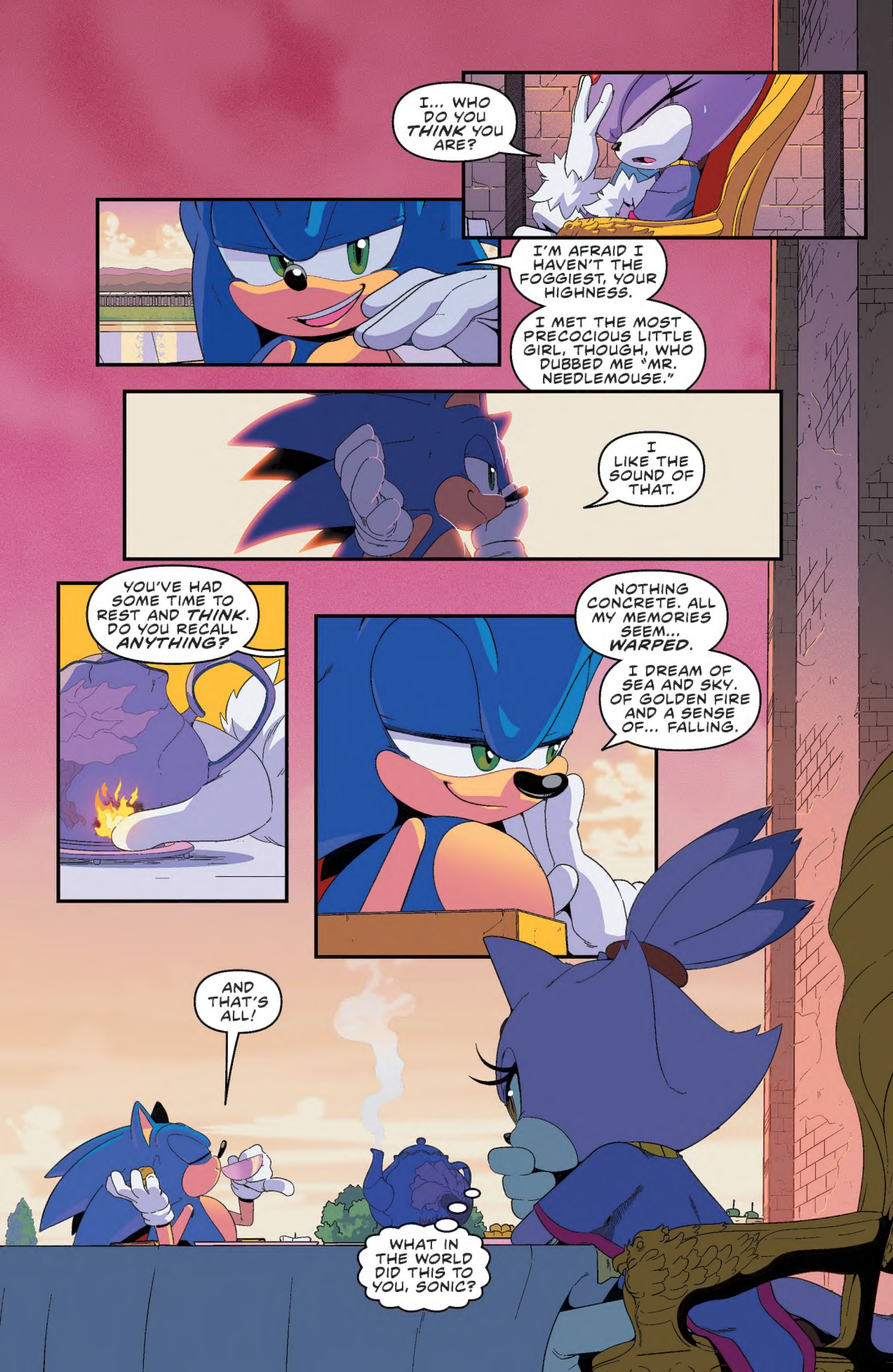
VANILLA THE RABBIT
Loving mother.
Restoration ally.

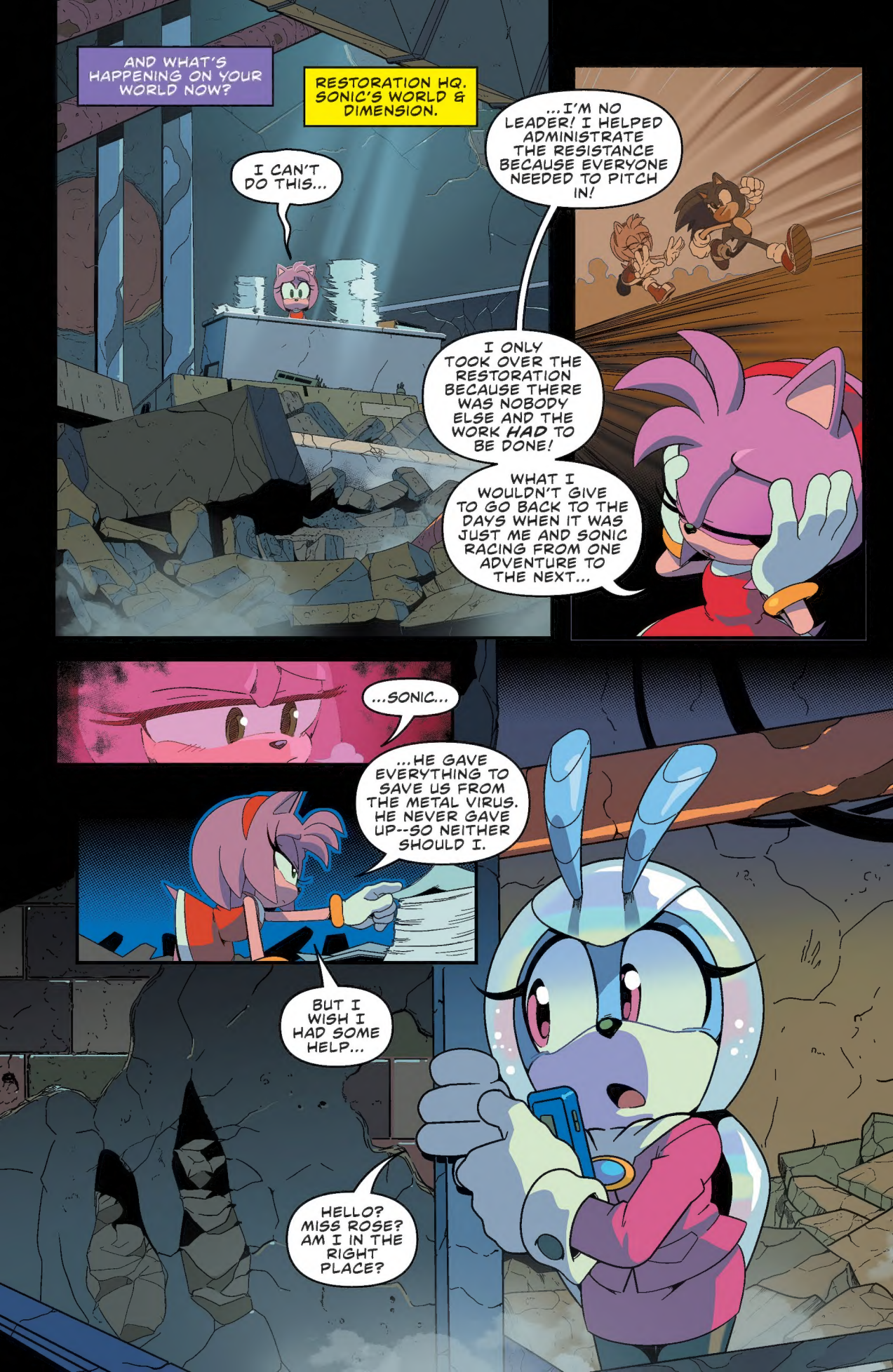
GEMERL
Reformed Robot.
Cream's protector.

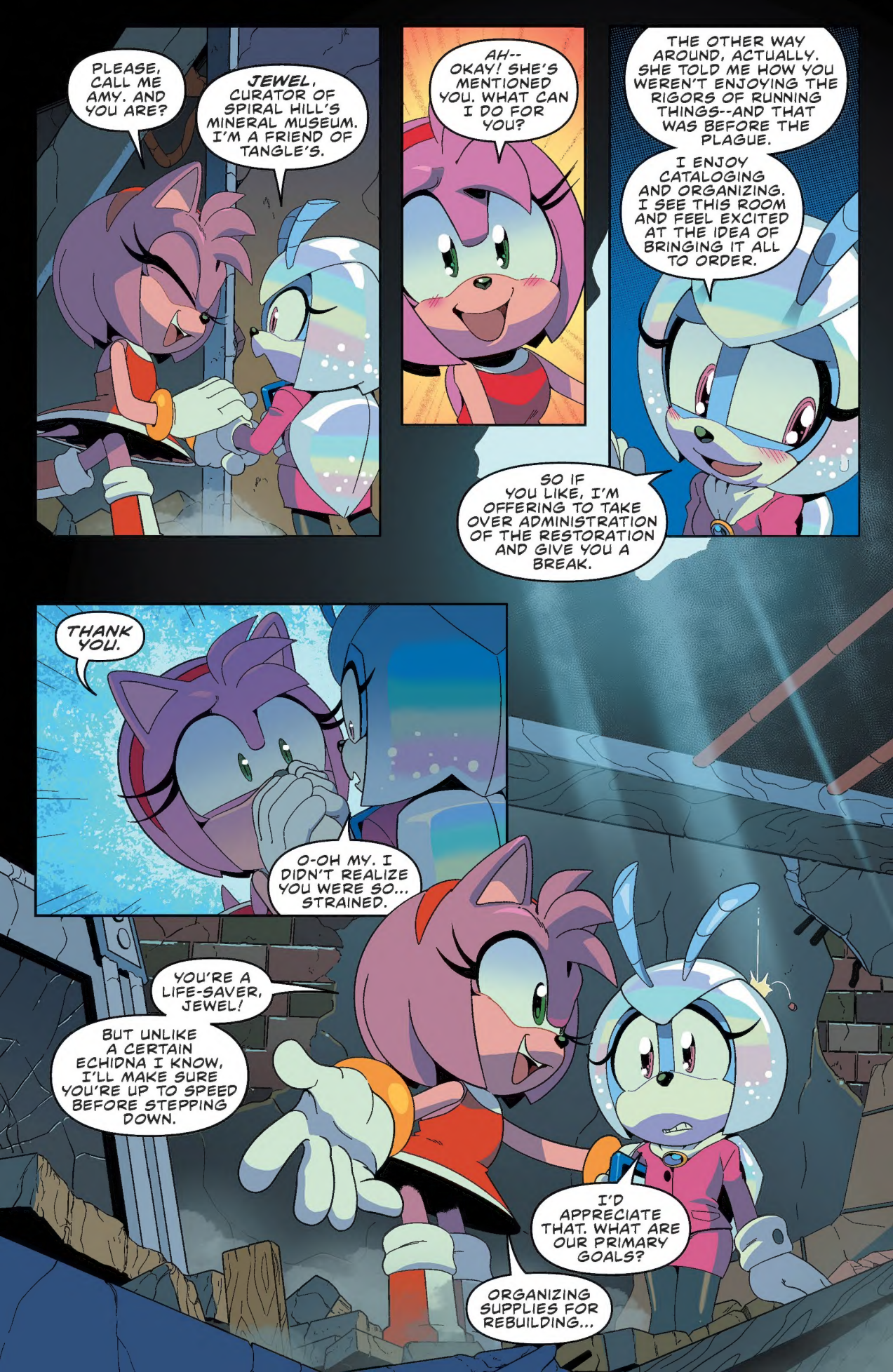
SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
The Ultimate Lifeform.
Sonic's grim rival.

ROUGE THE BAT
Treasure-hunting Spy.
Restoration ally.


IMPERIAL PALACE OF THE SOL EMPIRE.
BLAZE THE CAT'S WORLD AND DIMENSION.
THE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG I KNOW WAS A HERO, A PARAGON.
HE WAS AS SWIFT AND FREE AS THE WIND. HE HAD NO MASTER, BUT FOUGHT FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE.
THERE WAS NO CHALLENGE TOO GREAT, NO THREAT TOO DIRE THAT HE WOULDN'T FACE WITHOUT SWAGGER AND A SMILE.
HE SOUNDS VERY IMPRESSIVE. I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM ONE DAY.


I... WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I MET THE MOST PRECOCIOUS LITTLE GIRL, THOUGH, WHO DUBBED ME "MR. NEEDLEMOUSE."
I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
YOU'VE HAD SOME TIME TO REST AND THINK. DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING?
NOTHING CONCRETE. ALL MY MEMORIES SEEM... WARPED.
I DREAM OF SEA AND SKY. OF GOLDEN FIRE AND A SENSE OF... FALLING.
AND THAT'S ALL!
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID THIS TO YOU, SONIC?


AND WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR WORLD NOW?
RESTORATION HQ. SONIC'S WORLD & DIMENSION.
I CAN'T DO THIS...
...I'M NO LEADER! I HELPED ADMINISTRATE THE RESISTANCE BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDED TO PITCH IN!
I ONLY TOOK OVER THE RESTORATION BECAUSE THERE WAS NOBODY ELSE AND THE WORK HAD TO BE DONE!
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO GO BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN IT WAS JUST ME AND SONIC RACING FROM ONE ADVENTURE TO THE NEXT...
...SONIC...
...HE GAVE EVERYTHING TO SAVE US FROM THE METAL VIRUS. HE NEVER GAVE UP--SO NEITHER SHOULD I.
BUT I WISH I HAD SOME HELP...
HELLO? MISS ROSE? AM I IN THE RIGHT PLACE?


PLEASE, CALL ME AMY. AND YOU ARE?
JEWEL, CURATOR OF SPIRAL HILL'S MINERAL MUSEUM. I'M A FRIEND OF TANGLE'S.
AH-- OKAY! SHE'S MENTIONED YOU. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
THE OTHER WAY AROUND, ACTUALLY. SHE TOLD ME HOW YOU WEREN'T ENJOYING THE RIGORS OF RUNNING THINGS--AND THAT WAS BEFORE THE PLAGUE.
I ENJOY CATALOGING AND ORGANIZING. I SEE THIS ROOM AND FEEL EXCITED AT THE IDEA OF BRINGING IT ALL TO ORDER.
SO IF YOU LIKE, I'M OFFERING TO TAKE OVER ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESTORATION AND GIVE YOU A BREAK.
THANK YOU.
O-OH MY. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO... STRAINED.
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER, JEWEL!
BUT UNLIKE A CERTAIN ECHIDNA I KNOW, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP TO SPEED BEFORE STEPPING DOWN.
I'D APPRECIATE THAT. WHAT ARE OUR PRIMARY GOALS?
ORGANIZING SUPPLIES FOR REBUILDING...

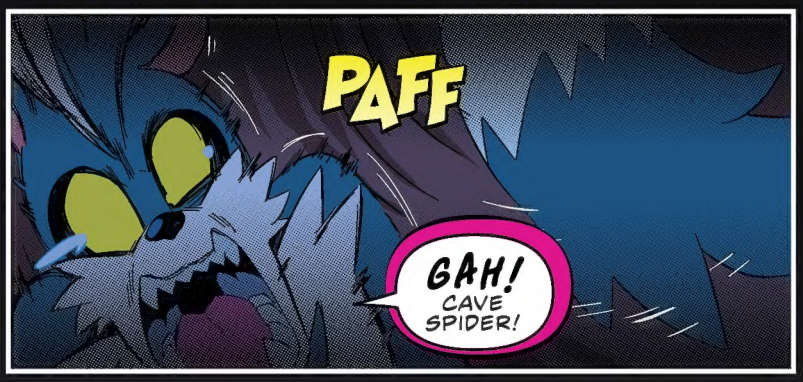
"...AND FINDING PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THEIR TIME AS ZOMBOTS."

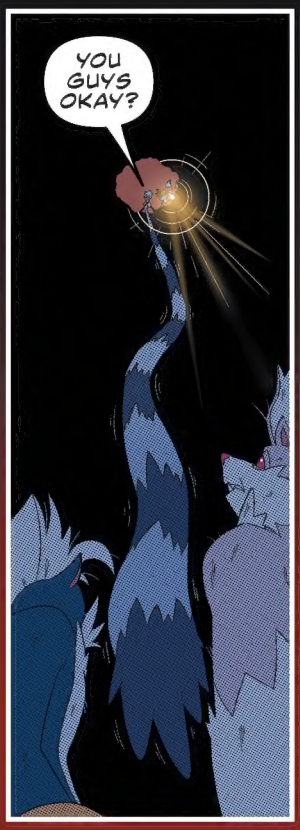
ECHO MINE.

NO WAY OUT.

BELLIES STARTING TO GRUMBLE.

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END FOR ROUGH & TUMBLE!





AND TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY...
WHAT'S THE DEAL? HOW COME YOU'RE BEING NICE TO US?

SONIC CURED THE WORLD OF THE METAL VIRUS--THE GUNK EGGMAN TRICKED YOU TWO INTO USING.
HE GAVE THE WHOLE WORLD A SECOND CHANCE, SO WE'RE MAKING SURE EVERYONE GETS IT.
YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY.

BWA HA HA HA HA

YOU DORKS JUST GAVE US A FREE PASS TO RUN WILD!
LOOK OUT WORLD! THE BADDEST BOYS ARE BACK!

SO... BACK IN JAIL BY THE END OF THE DAY?
IF THEY DON'T GET LOST IN THE MINES.

HOW ARE YOU HANDLING SONIC BEING... Y'KNOW...?
I'M FINE.

I MEAN IT, LITTLE DUDE.
ME TOO. AND IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, I PROMISE.

I'M SURE WE'LL SEE SONIC AGAIN ONE DAY. HE'S BEATEN THE ODDS A MILLION TIMES AND...
...I BELIEVE IN HIM. BECAUSE HE'S NEVER LET ME DOWN.

AND UNTIL THEN, HE'LL BE COUNTING ON US TO KEEP THE PEACE.
??
I CAN SEE WHY HE'S ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH YOU. YOU'RE ACES!

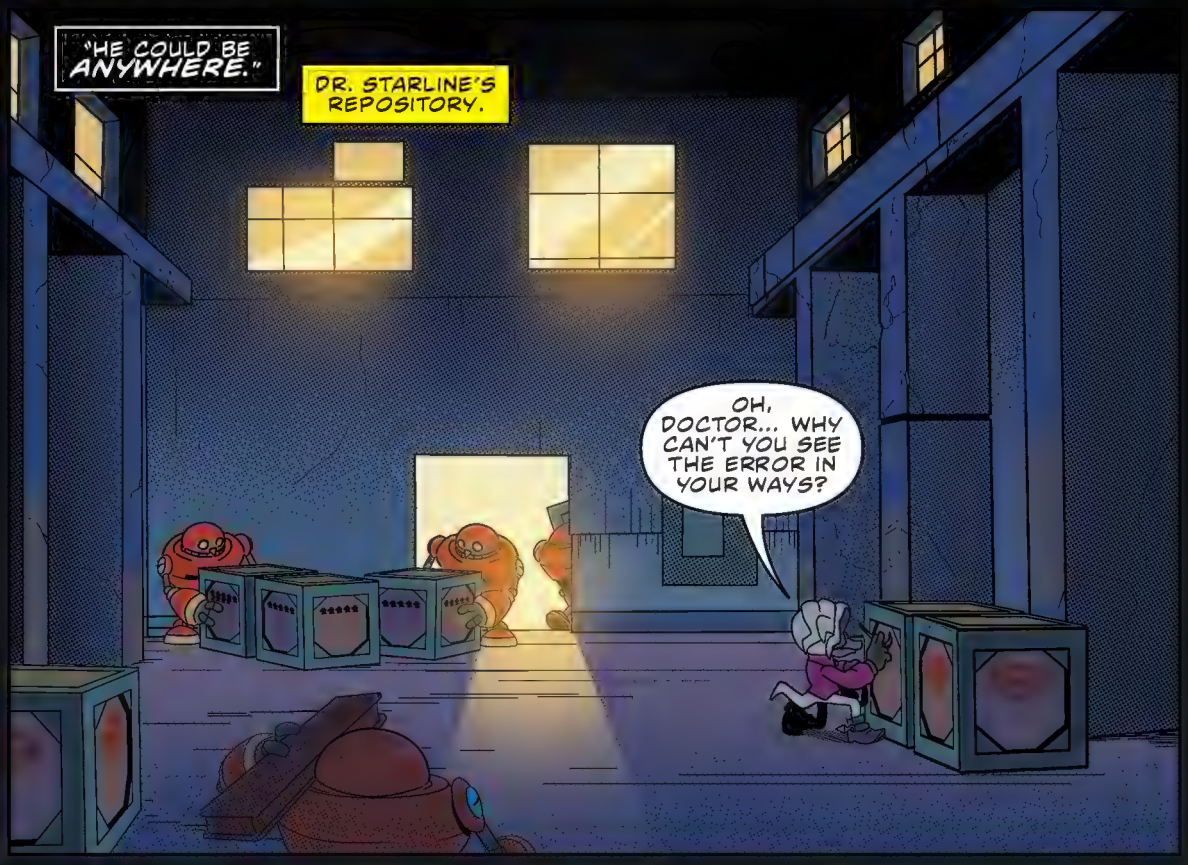
AWW! THANKS!
AND SONIC WOULD EXPECT US TO CELEBRATE US SURVIVING!
OF COURSE!
PARTY'S AT MY PLACE! AND EVERYONE IS INVITED!

"TOO BAD SILVER'S ALREADY GONE HOME!"
THE FUTURE.
WELL... I'M BACK TO MY OWN TIME PERIOD. THE GRASS IS NORMAL. THAT'S... A GOOD SIGN.
BUT A LOT CAN CHANGE IN A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS. IS EVERYTHING RESTORED, OR...?
SONIC... EVERYONE... THANK YOU. WE MADE A GOOD FUTURE.

DR. EGGMAN'S LAB-- THE PRESENT.
EGG-V0678
"MAY YOUR TIME STAY PEACEFUL, TOO."
AND NOW FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CORPOREAL AGAIN, OMEGA?
GOOD. DESTROYING YOU WILL ENHANCE THIS BY 90%.
WOO-HA-HA-HA! OH, I BET IT WOULD! BUT I LOCKED DOWN YOUR BODY, SO THERE WILL BE NO MAYHEM FOR YOU!
SATISFACTION DECREASED BY 100%.
IT GETS BETTER! I'LL BE USING YOU FOR A SPECIAL PROJECT.
WELCOME BACK TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE, E-123!
HATRED PROCESSING AT PEAK EFFICIENCY!

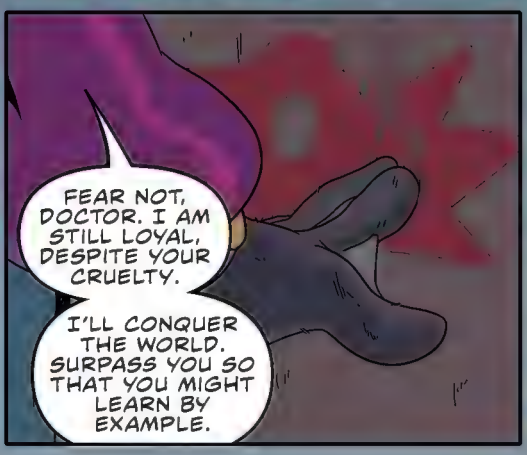
ORBOT! CUBOT! REPORT!
NO GOOD NEWS I'M AFRAID, BOSS.
THE ZOMBOTS REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOUR BASES, ESPECIALLY ONCE THE DEADLY SIX TOOK OVER.
WHERE ARE THOSE MISERABLE ZETI, ANYWAY?
ZAVOK WAS DEFEATED AND HAS BEEN SAFELY LOCKED AWAY.
THE OTHER FIVE ARE AT LARGE BUT APPEAR TO BE LAYING LOW.

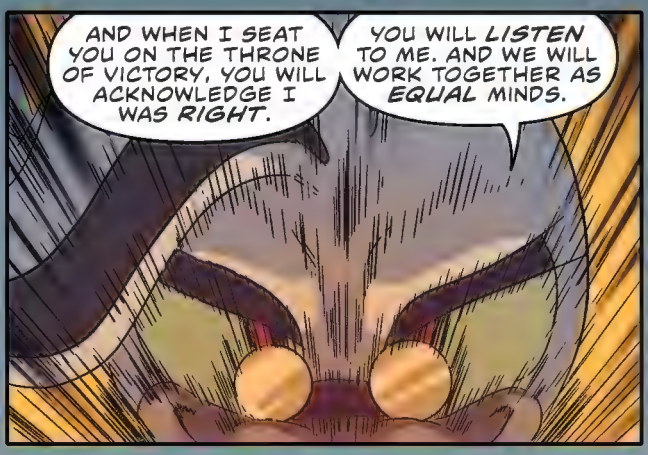
THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT, THEN. IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THE NEXT PROJECT!
GEE, BOSS, WHY NOT TAKE A VACATION?
INDEED. YOU WORKED *VERY* HARD TRYING TO DOOM US ALL.
AND I KNOW *I'D* LIKE SOME TIME OFF.
YEAH! GO SOMEPLACE NICE. LIKE THE BASEMENT!
KEEP DREAMING BIG, BUDDY.
THIS IS NO TIME TO REST. I NEED TO ESTABLISH MY NEXT PLAN BEFORE SONIC INEVITABLY RETURNS TO CAUSE ME HEADACHES.
AND NOW I HAVE TO FACTOR IN THE ERRANT ZETI. THE CACOPHONIC CONCH WAS LOST WHEN ROUGE CRASHED THE FACESHIP, WHICH LEAVES ME DEFENSELESS AGAINST THEM.
AND THERE'S DR. STARLINE TO CONSIDER...
OH, YEAH! I LIKED HIM! HE SMELLED NICE.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YOUR FANBOY-- I MEAN-- PROTEGE?
THAT'S THE THING-- I *DON'T KNOW.*
HE OPENED A WARP PORTAL, AND I PUNTED HIM THROUGH IT. I DIDN'T THINK TO LOOK WHERE HE WAS RETREATING TO.


"HE COULD BE ANYWHERE."
DR. STARLINE'S REPOSITORY.
OH, DOCTOR... WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THE ERROR IN YOUR WAYS?

EGGMAN TRULY IS THE GENIUS I THOUGHT HIM TO BE, BUT HE'S *INEPT* IN HIS EXECUTION!
AND SONIC IS EVERY BIT THE POWERHOUSE I EXPECTED, BUT HE'S JUST... RECKLESS!

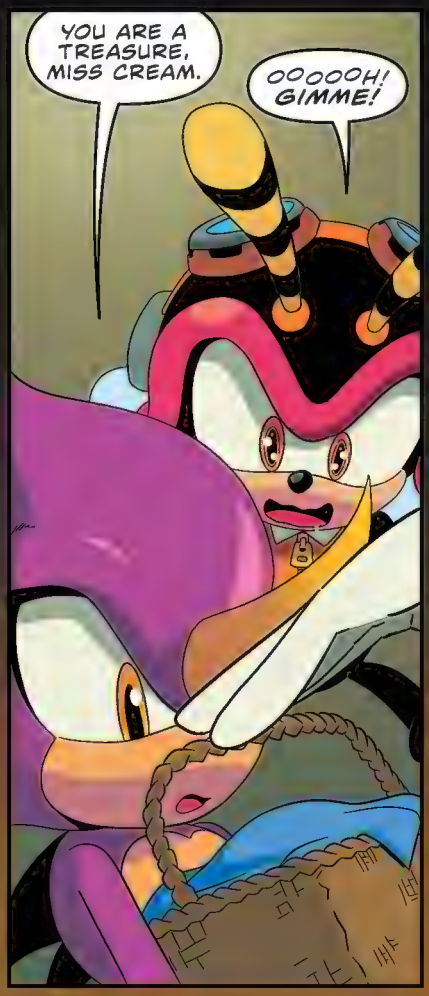
SO MUCH WASTED POTENTIAL. BUT *I* HAVE THE CLARITY OF VISION. I CAN... *IMPROVE* UPON THEM.


FEAR NOT, DOCTOR. I AM STILL LOYAL, DESPITE YOUR CRUELTY.
I'LL CONQUER THE WORLD. SURPASS YOU SO THAT YOU MIGHT LEARN BY EXAMPLE.


AND WHEN I SEAT YOU ON THE THRONE OF VICTORY, YOU WILL ACKNOWLEDGE I WAS *RIGHT*.
YOU WILL *LISTEN* TO ME. AND WE WILL WORK TOGETHER AS *EQUAL* MINDS.

CHAOTIX DETECTIVE AGENCY. SEASIDE CITY.
DETECTIVE AGENCY
CHAOTIX DETECTIVE AGENCY! PLEASE HOLD!
YES! I'M THE LEAD DETECTIVE! PLEASE HOLD!
NO! I SAID A DOUBLE-EXTRA LARGE, NO CHEESE! PLEASE HOLD!
RING RING
SO MANY MISSING PERSONS CASES...
...ALMOST MAKES ME MISS THE DAYS WHEN WE COULDN'T FIND WORK!
KNOCK-KNOCK
PLEASE HOLD! I MEAN...IT'S OPEN! WE'LL BE WITH YOU IN A... MINUTE? HOUR? SOMETIME THIS WEEK?

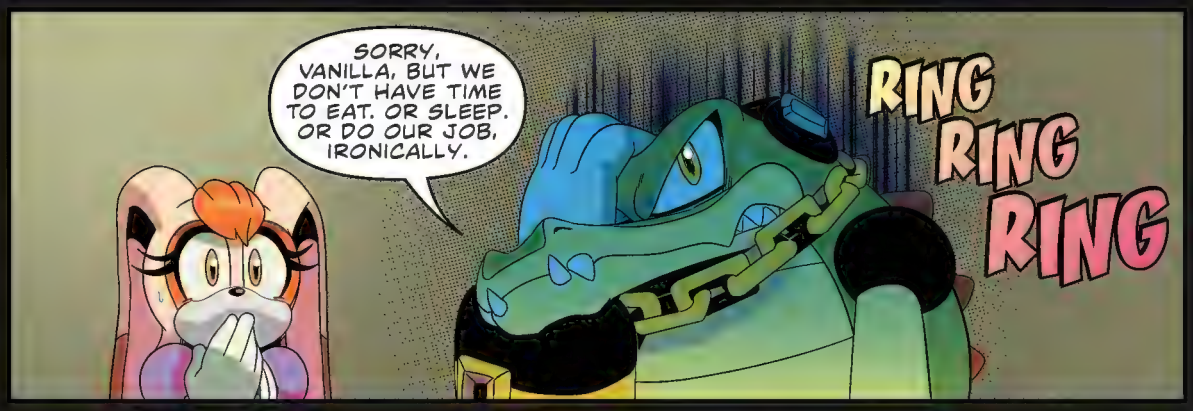
HELLO, EVERYONE!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO REUNITE EVERYONE AND THEIR FAMILIES! SO WE BROUGHT YOU LOTS OF TASTY TREATS TO KEEP YOU GOING!


YOU ARE A TREASURE, MISS CREAM.
OOOOOH! GIMME!

EVEN AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PLAGUE, YOU WERE ALL SO SELFLESS.
OH! WELL! I-IT'S ALL PART OF BEING A GOOD DETECTIVE, MA'AM.
PLEASE! CALL ME VANILLA.

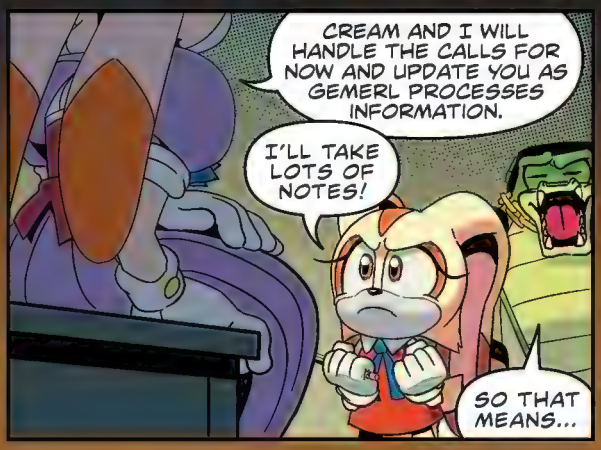
O-OKAY!

RING
RING
RING


SORRY, VANILLA, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO EAT. OR SLEEP. OR DO OUR JOB, IRONICALLY.
RING RING RING

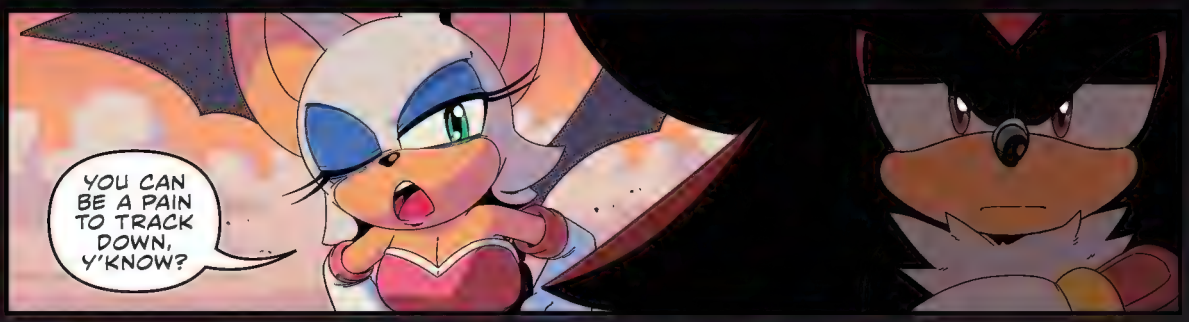
WELL THAT SIMPLY WON'T DO. GEMERL, WOULD YOU MIND HELPING?
AT ONCE. SCANNING DATA. PREPARING A DATABASE OF ALL MISSING PERSONS.

CHEESE? CHOCOLA? PUT THE FILES AWAY PLEASE?

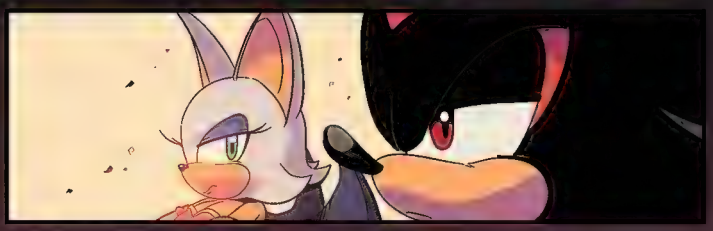

CREAM AND I WILL HANDLE THE CALLS FOR NOW AND UPDATE YOU AS GEMERL PROCESSES INFORMATION.
I'LL TAKE LOTS OF NOTES!
SO THAT MEANS...

...WE'RE FREE TO DO OUR THING! LET'S GO, CHAOTIX!

FOREST HILL.
"TIME TO FIND THOSE MISSING PEOPLE!"
THERE YOU ARE!


YOU CAN BE A PAIN TO TRACK DOWN, Y'KNOW?

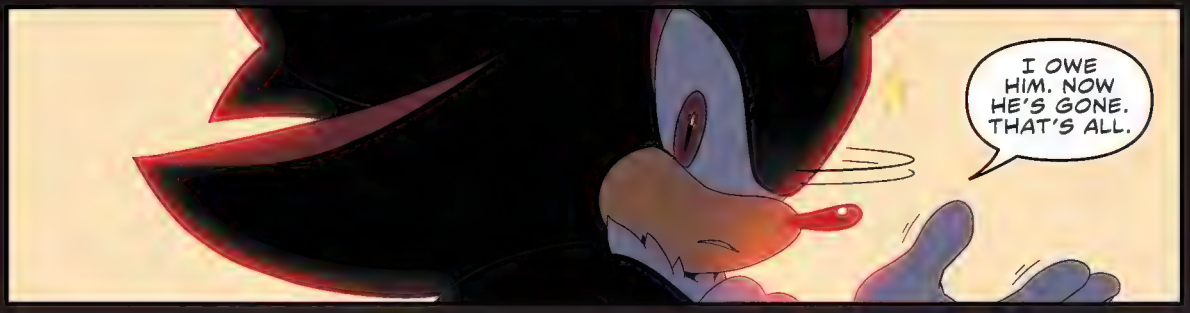
THINGS SEEMED TO HAVE SETTLED DOWN.
ALL THE BAD GUYS ARE IN HIDING. AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT CAUSING TROUBLE.
BUT... I CAN'T FIND ANY SIGN OF SONIC OR OMEGA.



DID YOU HEAR A WORD I SAID?
YES.
WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE EVEN MORE BROODING THAN USUAL.

HE SAID TO RUN. WHAT I THOUGHT WAS COWARDICE WAS A WARNING. THAT ONE MISTAKE TOOK ME OUT OF THE FIGHT.
ME--THE ULTIMATE LIFE-FORM--MISCALCULATING LIKE THAT...
...IT'S UNACCEPTABLE!

IF YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT, I'LL LEAVE IT BE.

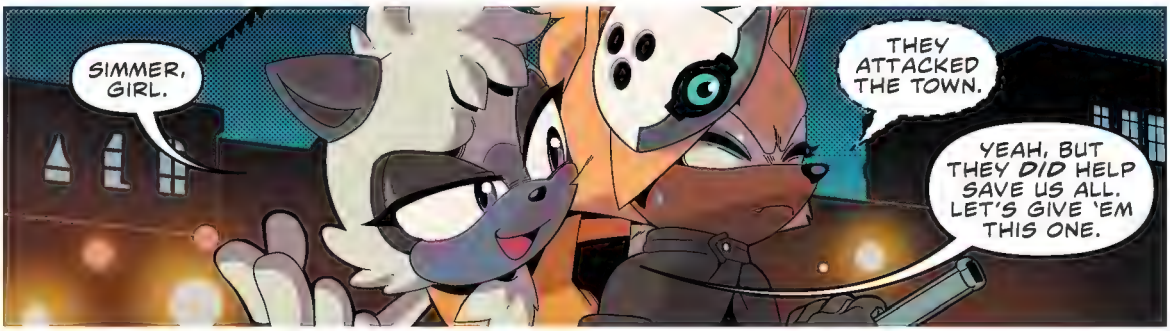

I OWE HIM. NOW HE'S GONE. THAT'S ALL.

THERE'S A BIG PARTY GOING DOWN AT SPIRAL HILL TONIGHT. EVERYONE'S INVITED--EVEN YOU.
PASS.
FIGURED, BUT I THOUGHT I'D TRY.

SPIRAL HILL VILLAGE.

WHERE'S MY ICE SCULPTURE? I NEARLY GOT INFECTED TO SAVE YOU INGRATES! WHERE'S MY RECOGNITION?!

DINNER, AND A SHOW.
WE OUGHTA SAVE THE WORLD MORE OFTEN!


SIMMER, GIRL.
THEY ATTACKED THE TOWN.
YEAH, BUT THEY DID HELP SAVE US ALL. LET'S GIVE 'EM THIS ONE.

PLUS I'D RATHER NOT HAVE ANOTHER FIGHT IN MY HOME TOWN SO SOON, Y'KNOW?
I UNDER-STAND.
THAT'S MY GIRL! NOW LET'S GET SOME GRUB FOR YOUR WISPS!
THEY DO EAT, RIGHT?

MWA-HA-HA-HA! THE LIFE OF THE PARTY'S HERE!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME!

AND I'LL BE ENDING ALL OF YOURS!
NEXT TIME: EGGMAN ON THE ATTACK! SONIC MISSING! WILL OUR HEROES FINALLY FIND PEACE?

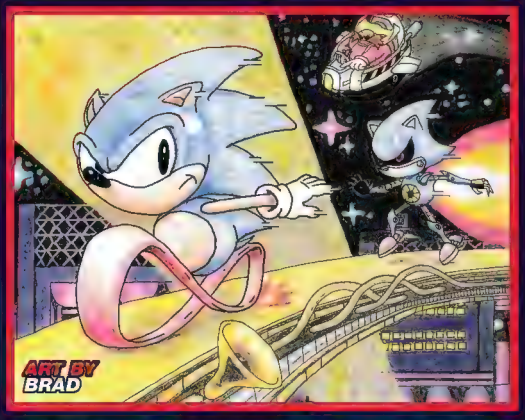
NEXT MONTH
ITO

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Greetings, Squad! The heroes just can't catch a break, huh? They'll have to take down Eggman quickly if they want to enjoy the rest of their party! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Adam Bryce Thomas, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee for "Recovery, part one." Now, on to the letters!

Dear IDW,

Hello there! My name is Jess, and I'm a very big fan of the Sonic the Hedgehog series! I've very much enjoyed this series ever since I was a young child, and I am loving the comics coming out this past while, especially this Zombot arc! The characters are written wonderfully and illustrated gorgeously, the team is doing such an amazing work so far, the issues have been leaving me on the edge of my seat from all of the action! Loving all the inclusion of my favourite characters, the Deadly Six as well, it's makes me so happy to see them again! I wanted to include some fan art I had made very recently of the showdown on Angel Island. Can't wait to see what happens next, keep up with the amazing work!



Hi, Jess!

I'm so glad to hear that you enjoy the comics. The writers and artists work hard to include many different characters and to create new characters. It's always fun to add more characters into the mix, especially the Deadly Six, who are just bad for the sake of being bad. Eggman is always only after Sonic, but the Deadly Six just want to rule the world. It's a different dynamic that has been interesting to see play out. Thanks so much for your awesome art and letter!

Hey IDW,

You guys really know how to make me feel awful. In a good way. The Zombot arc has been extremely raw emotionally, and it's put these characters in a context I've never seen them in before. When Vector sacrificed himself, and when Cream got infected, I actually started crying. I could feel how upset Whisper was at losing her best friend, and even Gemerl was for what was going to happen to Cream. You really like putting our favorite characters through the wringer, huh?

Everything's going from bad to worse fast, and I can't wait to see our favorite blue blur come out on top. And then for someone to please get everyone in this cast therapy for what's just happened.

Signing off,
Ashley

(P.S. Silver's my favorite character, and I really hope we get to see more of him.)

ART BY ANNA

COSPLAY BY BRIANNA

Hi, Ashley!

I'm so sorry we have put you through emotional distress, but I'm glad to hear you're so invested in the comic. It has certainly pulled on all of our heart strings as well. The scene with Cream was… one of the hardest. While I wouldn't say the writers enjoy putting the characters through the wringer, you're right about seeing the characters in a different context. It's fun to see them save the day, but with the added emotional depth, it connects the characters with the reader in a new way.

P.S. Silver is my favorite, too! I'm sure we'll see him again.

IDW team,

These Sonic comics are amazing!! As a long time Sonic fan I really love the callbacks and references to older games. I can tell everyone working on this has a lot of love for the series. For Sonic's 29th birthday I decided to make an Amy Rose cosplay! She has always been one of my favorite Sonic characters, so I wanted to share my work with you guys and other Amy fans! I look forward to reading more issues of the comic. Each one has me on the edge of my seat!

Briannabuns

Hi, Brianna,

First, let me say that your cosplay is awesome! Amy Rose is the best, and always deserves more love. Hopefully you'll be able to wear it to a convention sometime soon. And second, thanks for being a fan of the comics! The writers and artists started out as fans of the Sonic games, so including callbacks to those games is a fun nod to fellow long-time fans.

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to *letters@idwpublishing.com*, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Join us next month for "Recovery, part two" and the FINAL INSTALLMENT of the Metal Virus Saga!

ART BY HELEN

ART TRACY YARDLEY COLORS LEONARDO ITO

ART JONATHAN GRAY COLORS REGGIE GRAHAM

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

IDW

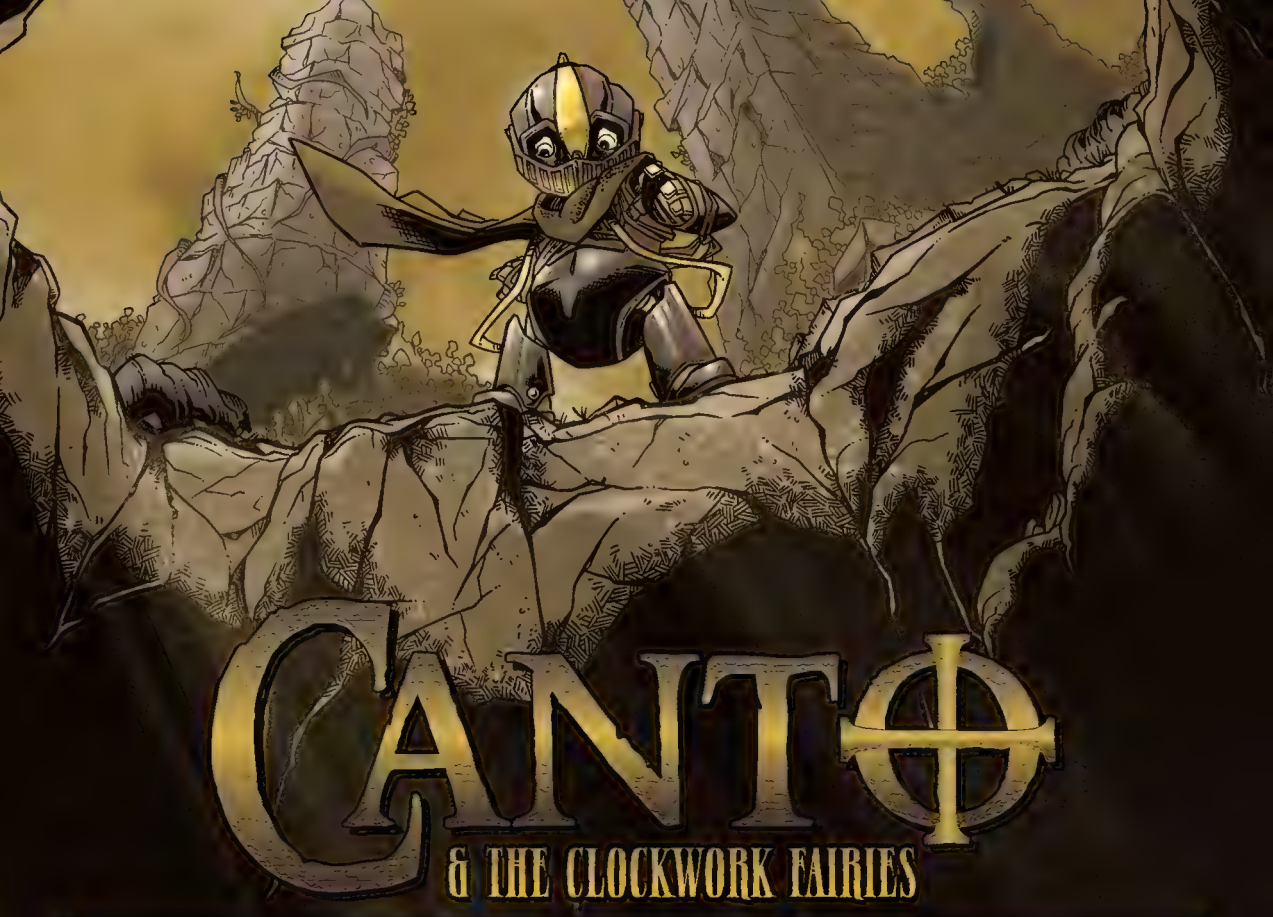
COVER A

BOOHER • ZUCKER • ASTONE • BENNETT

CANTO & THE CLOCKWORK FAIRIES

FREE DIGITAL ASHCAN

TAKE A PEEK AT ANOTHER AWESOME COMIC YOU MAY LIKE...



CANTO'S SAGA CONTINUES...

Freed from the Shrouded Man's captivity, Canto leads his people on an exodus away from Arcana and toward their lost homeland. On the way, Canto and his Malorex enjoy a day of fun. When their games take them into the clutches of a dangerous new threat, can they liberate a gentle race of fairies without losing their new freedom in the process?

Story **David M. Booher**

Art **Drew Zucker**

Colors **Vittorio Astone**

Letters **Deron Bennett**

Editor: **David Mariotte**

Special thanks to Melissa Meszaros.

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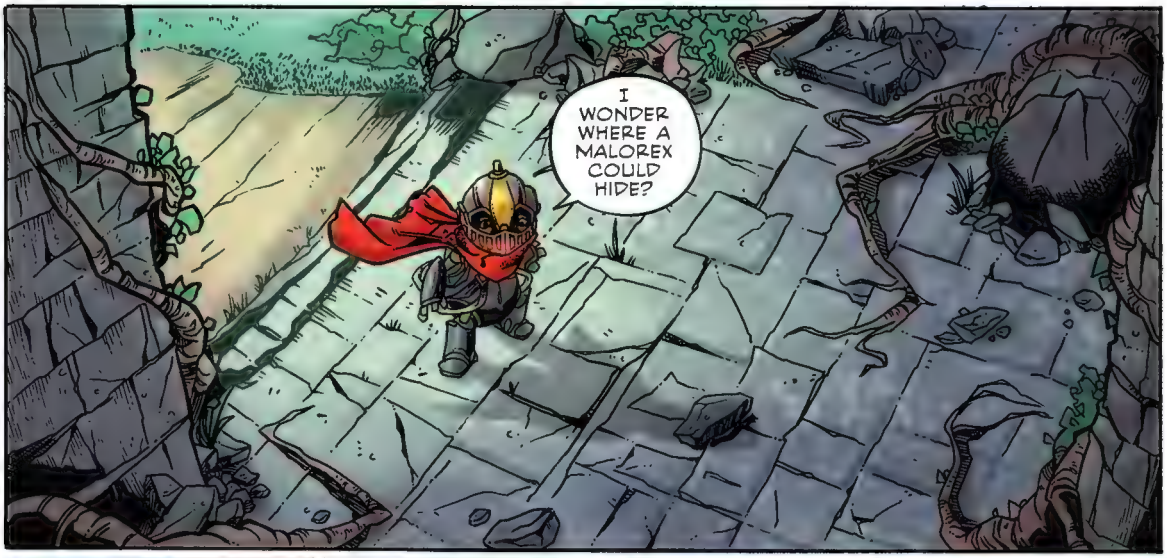
...EIGHT... SEVEN...SIX... FIVE...
...FOUR... THREE... TWO...
...ONE!
ARE YOU HIDDEN YET? I'M COMING TO FIND YOU!
RUHR!

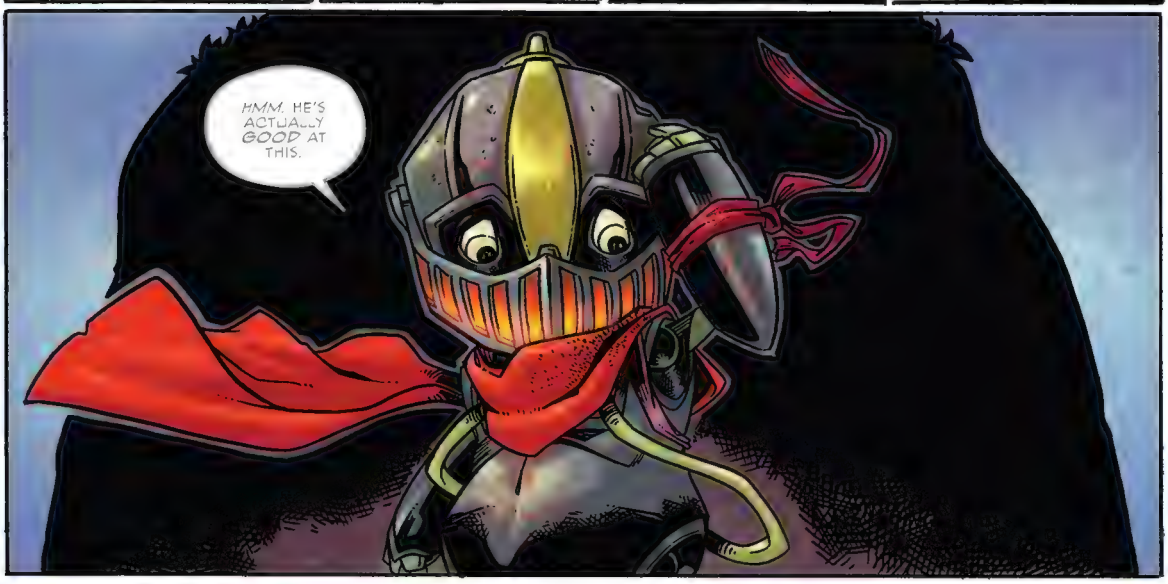

I WONDER WHERE A MALOREX COULD HIDE?

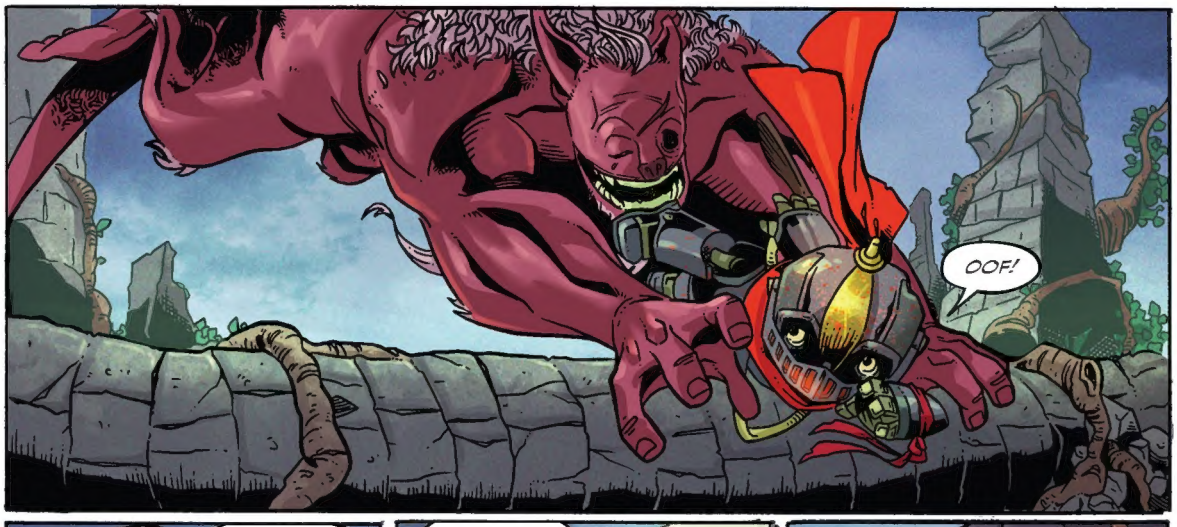
COULD HE HIDE...

...HERE?

OR MAYBE...

...HERE?

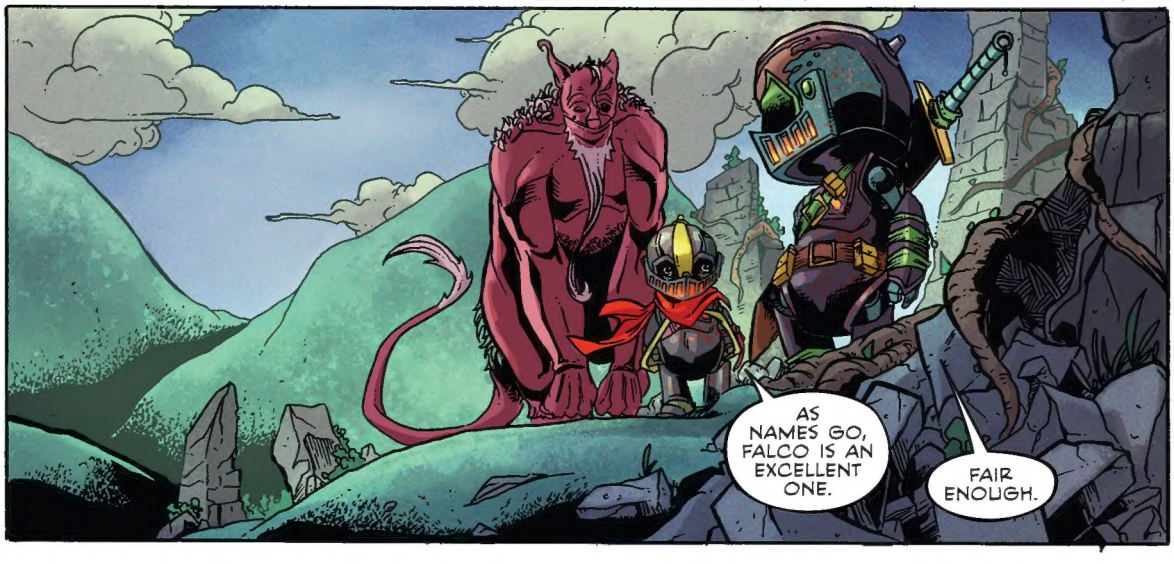

HMM. HE'S ACTUALLY GOOD AT THIS.


OOF!

I'M NOT SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES TO HIDE AND SEEK.

CANTO, WE'LL MOVE OUT SOON. ELDER SAYS WE'RE ONLY A FEW DAYS FROM OUR NEW HOME.
THANK YOU, FALCO. WE'LL BE ALONG SHORTLY.

FALCO.
I'M NOT SURE I'LL EVER GROW ACCUSTOMED TO HAVING A NAME.


AS NAMES GO, FALCO IS AN EXCELLENT ONE.
FAIR ENOUGH.

Help!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
RUHR.
Help us! Please!
Is anyone there?
CAN YOU MOVE THIS?
RUHR.
HELLO?

IS SOMEONE DOWN THERE?
Yes!
We are trapped!
WE'VE GOT TO HELP THEM! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CLIMB--
!
NO!
CRRAACKK

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ONE SHOT

COVER A

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TO BE CONTINUED IN...

CANTO AND THE CLOCKWORK FAIRIES